

LIBRARY

CREDITON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1946



MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

FOR

Year ended 31st December, 1946

CREDITON :

PHILLIPS & Co., PRINTERS, "THE KYRTONIA PRESS."

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my report for the year, 1946.

SECTION A.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres) 1,096 ; Registrar-General's estimate of resident population in 1946, 4,000 ; Number of inhabited houses (end of 1946, according to Rate Books) 1,239 ; Rateable Value, £20,890 ; Sum represented by a Penny Rate, £80.

The District is mainly agricultural, apart from a medicinal lozenge factory, three sweet factories, one dried milk factory and two cider factories.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	M	F	Total	
LIVE { Legitimate	73	80	153	} Birth Rate 38.25 per 1,000 population.
BIRTHS { Illegitimate	3	0	3	
STILL BIRTHS.	3	0	3	

The high birth rate is due to the fact that there were in 1946 two Nursing Homes taking Maternity Cases. The Birth Rate for England and Wales in 1946 was 19.1.

	M	F	Total	
DEATHS.	25	31	56	Death rate 14 per 1,000.

Death rate for England and Wales in 1946 was 11.5.
Number of Women dying in or in consequence of Childbirth. Nil.
Death of Infants under 1 year :—

Legitimate 5 ; Illegitimate 0 ; Total 5.

Infantile Mortality per 1,000 live births was 28.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	9
" " Measles (all ages)	...	...	0
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	0
" " Diarrhoea (all ages)	...	...	0

Of the Deaths 18 were over 70.

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, W. THOMPSON, Certificate R.S.I.

Professional Nursing in the home (a) General. The Crediton Sick Nursing Association provide one Nurse, paid for by subscriptions with help from the County Council.

(b) *For Infectious Diseases*.—Nil.

MIDWIFES.

One midwife provided by the Crediton Sick Nursing Association with help from the County Council.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Maternity and Child Welfare.—This is held weekly in the Red Cross Room in Market Street. During the year the total attendances were :—

Birth to 1 year	...	...	...	...	957
1 year to 5 year	...	...	...	...	542
New Babies under 1 year (1st attendance)	...				150

Total 1,628

Day Nurseries.—Nil.

School Clinics.—Held in the Red Cross Room under the County Council.

Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases.—There are none in the district ; the nearest are at Exeter.

Tuberculosis.—Cases from this district are taken to "Ivybank" Hospital, or to Hawkmoor Sanatorium, at the discretion of the Tuberculosis Officer.

Maternity (Children).—Nil.

Infectious Cases are nursed in their homes, but are removed to the Whipton Isolation Hospital if adequate isolation cannot be obtained at home.

Smallpox.—The Smallpox Hospital for the County is at Upton Pyne.

The other Hospitals available for the district are the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, the Dispensary, the Eye Infirmary and the Orthopædic Hospital at Exeter.

AMBULANCES

(a) For Infectious Cases, by arrangement with Whipton Sanatorium.

(b) For Non-Infectious Cases by Crediton Ambulance.

LABORATORY WORK.

Throat Swabs, Sputum and Blood for Typhoid are examined and reported on by the Devon County Council Pathological Department free of cost in the case of poor people.

Diphtheria antitoxin is provided by the Urban District Council for poor people on the recommendation of the M.O.H.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES
OF THE AREA.

1. (a) *Water*.—The water from Walson and George Hill is of excellent quality and supplies were maintained, though the supply from George Hill dropped considerably during the latter part of the year. The three samples taken proved that the water is bacteriologically pure and in every way satisfactory. The Council are negotiating for another site for the augmentation of the water supply at Uton. The storage in the reservoirs is as follows :—

Landscore	...	120,000
George Hill	...	40,000—150,000
Stoney Park	...	40,000
Alexandra Road		32,000
Union Road	...	50,000

Total ... 432,000 galls.

(b) *Drainage and Sewerage*.—Lord's Meadow with the existing sedimentation tanks and ample ground should always be satisfactory. Fordton drainage continues in the same unsatisfactory state.

2. *Rivers and Streams*.—No action has been taken to check the pollution of the River Yeo from the Fordton area.

3. (a) *Closet Accommodation*.—There are no conservancy systems, all closets are of water carriage system, and only a small number are without flushing cisterns.

(b) *Public Cleansing*.—House Refuse is collected twice weekly. There are no cess-pools.

(c) *Sanitary Inspection of the Area*.—Tabular statement of Sanitary Inspector :—

Cowsheds and Dairy Inspections	...	22
Bakehouse Inspections	...	20
Meat Inspections	...	80
Workshops, etc.	...	10
Premises Fumigated	...	6
Choked Drains Cleared	...	14
Foundations Inspected	...	16
Drains Tested	...	4

(d) *Shops and Offices*.—No action has been necessary.

(e) *Camping Sites*.—No Licences have been granted under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

(f) *Smoke Abatement*.—No action required.

(g) *Swimming Pools*.—There are no Swimming Baths.

(h) *Eradication of Bed Bugs*.—No complaints have been received of either the Council or other houses being infested.

4. *Schools*.—The sanitary conditions and the water supply of the Schools are satisfactory.

5. *Housing*. Preparations for the building of another 54 houses at Spruce Park are well in hand.

6. *Newcombes Estate*.—This estate has been purchased for a Community Centre and to house 35 families temporarily.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

STATISTICS FOR 1946.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year* :—

(1) (a) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	...	...	70
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose			89
(2) (a) Number of Dwelling Houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	30

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	45
(3) Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	2
(4) Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive to those referred to under the preceeding sub-head found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation)	28
2. <i>Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices.</i>	
Number of defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	12
3. <i>Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—</i>	
(a)—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	2
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:—	
(a) By Owners	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0
(b)—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	0
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	0
(c)—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	2

(2) Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	2
(b)—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—		
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	... ..	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	... ..	0
4. <i>Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding :—</i>		
(a)—1. Number of Dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	... ..	70
(b)—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	... ..	0
(c)—1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	... ..	0
2. Number of persons concerned in such cases		0

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply*.—All Dairies are registered and are frequently visited. Samples of milk are now taken by the County Council.

(b) *Meat Inspections*.—Inspections are made from time to time. Slaughterings carried out by the Ministry of Food.

SECTION F.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN
TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR.

Disease					Total Cases Notified	Cases ad- mitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	12	"	"
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	Nil	"	"
Enteric Group	...	...	...	...	"	"	"
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	"	"	"
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	2	"	"
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	"	"	"

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality.

Age periods		NEW CASES				DEATHS			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0...	...								
1...	...								
5...	...								
10...	...								
15...	...								
20...	...						1		
25...	...	1							
35...	...								
45...	...								
55...	...	1				1			
65 and upwards									
Totals...		2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

H. J. SHERREN, M.O.H.